'PUT UP OR SHUT UP' MOVE S-I 10/3/67

Baton Rouge DA in Ohio To Quiz Gordon Novel

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — The district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish was in Columbus, Ohio, today in a move to meet with mystery figure Gordon Novel, the States-Item learned.

Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher wants Novel to "put up or shut up" on what he claims to know about organized crime in Louisiana.

The spotlight on a probe of organized crime in the state shifted to Baton Rouge last week when the East Baton Rouge Grand Jury indicted a former New Orleans contractor for public bribery.

NOVEL, WHO has been living in Columbus since he fled New Orleans where he is wanted in connection with the President Kennedy assassination probe, claimed last week he had information on criminal activities in the state.

The former New Orleans bartender once sold bugging devices to the state for use in the governor's office and now claims he has tape recordings that would prove damaging to a number of people.

Pitcher's office in Baton Rouge declined to confirm the district attorney had gone to Ohio.

MEANWHILE, the sheriff's office in East Baton Rouge Parish said that it is still awaiting word on the surrender of Dalton Smith, the former New Orleans contractor indicted by the local grand jury.

Smith was accused of offering $25,000 to Aubrey Young, former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen, to arrange a meeting between him and Ed-

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ward Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster leader. The meeting, according to a charge in Life magazine, was to get Partin to change his testimony about James Hoffa, which sent the international Teamster boss to a federal prison.

MAJ. G. W. LeBlanc of the East Baton Rouge sheriff's office said that he is awaiting word from Los Angeles.

He said that bond on Smith, whose brother, A. D. Smith, is a member of the state board of education and a candidate for the state Senate in New Orleans, has been set at $25,000.

A sheriff's plane will be sent to Los Angeles to bring Smith back to Louisiana to face the charge provided he waives extradition, Maj. LeBlanc said.

IF SMITH declines to waive extradition, it will take several weeks to get him back to Louisiana, the deputy said.

Smith is an electrical contractor with political and business connections both in Louisiana and California. He is believed to be residing in California now.

Novel claims that the investigation of organized crime and the Kennedy assassination probe by District Attorney Jim Garrison of Orleans are interwined.

HE HAS called the Kennedy probe a hoax and said his tapes will reveal information on organized crime and also about the site selection for the domed stadium in New Orleans.

Novel is charged in New Orleans with conspiracy to burglarize a munitions dump in Terrebonne Parish. He is actually wanted for questioning in the assassination probe.

Novel frequently has been on the verge of revealing "hot information" but has yet to produce.

PITCHER IS expected to ask Novel to come across with whatever evidence he might have.

It is also possible that Pitcher might offer Novel immunity from prosecution on any other charge so long as he is in Louisiana to testify about organized crime. Louisiana and Ohio have a reciprocal witness act which Garrison has declined to use in his efforts to have Novel brought back to the state.

Garrison has been thwarted in his extradition efforts by Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio.